

Top Secret



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Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Dept. review completed

Top Secret

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23 February 1972

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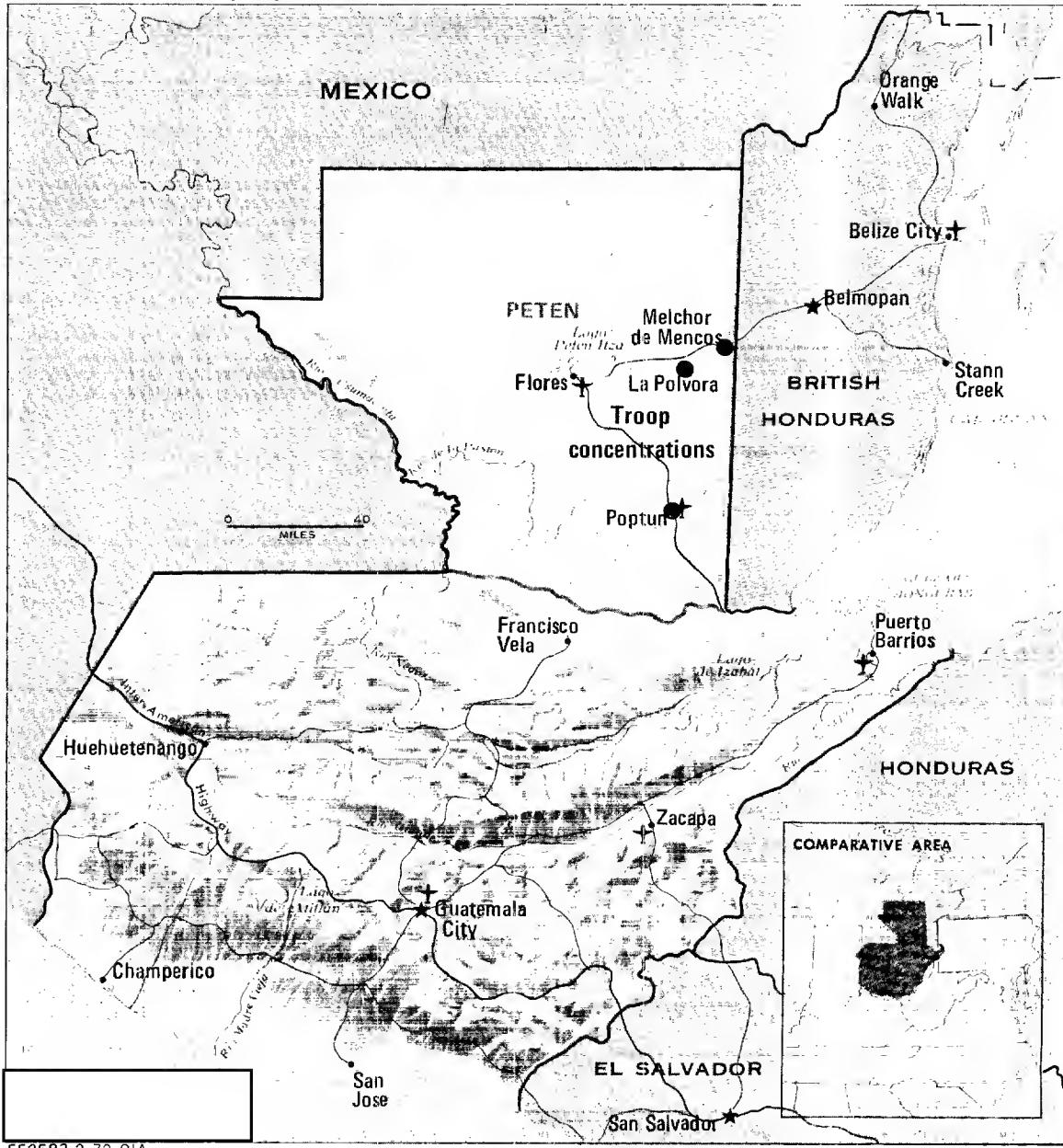
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Guatemala



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GUATEMALA-UK: London is again concerned that Guatemala intends to invade British Honduras.

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[redacted] The British, who usually maintain a 250-man garrison, now have a full battalion in the colony on maneuvers. They are considering sending an additional battalion as reinforcements.

The US Embassy in Guatemala notes no unusual military activity. Guatemalan fighter aircraft that were on alert as a result of Guatemalan concern over British intentions recently were disarmed. Guatemala reportedly has approximately 1,100 troops in the eastern Peten near British Honduras.

There is no evidence that Guatemala intends an invasion at this time or that it would invade unless the colony moved toward independence in advance of a settlement of Guatemala's territorial claim. Given Guatemala's suspicions, however, British reinforcements could be seen as new evidence that independence moves are planned and this could provoke another crisis.

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NOTES

C USSR: The Luna 20 spacecraft lifted off the moon's Sea of Fertility last night and is heading back to earth, probably carrying soil samples. Indications are that all is going well with the mission and the capsule is expected to be recovered in the Soviet Union on 25 February. The probe soft landed on mountainous terrain two days ago near the location where Luna 18--also believed to be a soil sampling mission--crashed last September. In the only successful mission of this sort completed to date, Luna 16 also landed in the Sea of Fertility and returned with less than a pound of soil samples in September 1970.

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